

## **Health Department Observes National Hispanic Heritage Month**

The Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center is observing National Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 through October 15) by recognizing the contributions made and the important presence of Hispanics in Lake County. Hispanics have had a profound and positive influence on our county through their strong commitment to family, faith, hard work, and service.

According to the most recent Census calculations, 20.7% of Lake County's population is Hispanic. Within the Health Department, 27% of 935 employees are Hispanic, showing a strong representation in our workforce and assuring linguistically and culturally competent services and partnerships.

Locally, there are many rich partnerships with community-based organizations partnering within Hispanic communities. One example is Mano a Mano Family Resource Center, a community-based organization located in Round Lake Park. This organization is involved in countywide efforts to work with community stakeholders, such as the Health Department, to ensure that immigrant families have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services, as well as opportunities to prevent diseases such as diabetes by promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles. Mano a Mano is transforming the health and well-being of thousands of families who are now empowered to take control of their own health and to seek out regular preventative care. The improved health and well-being of Latino and immigrant families in Lake County means an overall healthier and more successful Lake County.